



NCLIS

U.S. National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

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Factsheet

2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries A \$20,000 Prize Plus Nine \$1,000 Honorable Mentions

Recognizing Libraries that Help Americans Be Healthy

What is the 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries? The Award is designed to mobilize the resources of libraries to help citizens learn how to live healthy lifestyles and to provide citizens with consumer health information, particularly when they require health information in a critical or unusual situation.

Why was the 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries established? NCLIS encourages the nation's libraries to align their resources to address the needs of the country. The need for health information is a pressing one for many Americans. There are libraries in every community that already provide a wide variety of consumer-focused health information.

Who may participate? All libraries in the United States are eligible to apply, and collaborations between libraries and other organizations are strongly encouraged.

Who is involved with the 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries process? The Award is sponsored by NCLIS, and discussions are underway with potential strategic partners and other collaborating organizations which might participate with NCLIS in this effort.

What are the criteria for the 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries? The criteria for winning this award reflect the two-part goal of encouraging lifestyles that promote health and prevent disease and of providing citizens with consumer health information: program description, justification, and outcomes (40%); replicability (25%); community collaboration and sustainability (25%), and health literacy outreach (10%). Generally speaking, a standard theme for winning the award will be the library's commitment to routinely providing easy access to health information materials, training, and services to the people of the community served by the library.

How are 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries recipients selected? Libraries will submit their applications to their State Librarians, whose panels of local judges will choose the top candidate from their state or territory or possession. Ten winners will be chosen from these, with one \$20,000 prize winner and nine \$1,000 finalists.

What is the follow-up after the 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries ceremony? NCLIS will sponsor a forum for presenting the award-winning programs of the winning libraries and launch a nationwide public awareness campaign. The forum proceedings and summaries of the model programs will be published by NCLIS and made available to all library managers who wish to adapt these programs in their own communities. As required by law, the information procured through the awarding of the prize will be used to support the advice NCLIS provides the President and Congress about policy with respect to libraries and information science.